

LOYALTY

A Candle Lighting Service Honoring Past Matrons and Past Patrons.

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Raps are heard outside door.

Warder:

Worthy Matron, there is an alarm at the door.

Worthy Matron:

Sister Warder, you will ascertain the cause of the alarm.

Warder answers the alarm.

Warder:

Who knocks at the door of our Chapter?

Sentinel:

A stranger for whom I cannot vouch.

Warder:

Brother Sentinel, you will wait until further orders are received from the Worthy Matron.

Warder closes the door.

Warder:

Worthy Matron, the alarm was caused by a stranger seeking admission to our Chapter.

Worthy Matron:

Can the stranger be properly vouched for?

Warder:

She can not.

Worthy Matron:

Since an examining committee is required, I will appoint on this committee, (appoints three sisters) who will retire with the stranger to the preparation room.

During this period, a soloist sings:

Tune: "The Voice in the Old Village Choir."

Oft in our dreams of long ago
We see in the distance afar,
We catch a gleam of beauty there,
The gleam of our Eastern Star,
Through the beauty seen from the Heaven above,
We hear a call to renew our love,
We catch again as in days of yore,
The gleam of our own Eastern Star.

The self same voice without doth call,
The voice as in days of yore,
Who can it be that is waiting there
The stranger who knocks at our door?
She brings to us from our Star above
A call to loyal service and love,
A sweet low voice comes from afar,
A voice from our own Eastern Star.

May we now open wide the door
For the message that comes from afar;
We hear the voice so sweet and low,
The voice from our own Eastern Star;
May we now heed her message here,
A word of love to our Chapter dear,
A sweet low voice comes from afar,
A voice from our own Eastern Star.

At close of song, alarm is heard at door.

Warder:

Worthy Matron, there is an alarm at the door.

Worthy Matron:

You will ascertain the cause of the alarm.

Warder answers the alarm.

Warder:

Worthy Matron, the sister has been properly vouched for.

Worthy Matron:

You will admit her.

Spirit of Loyal Service enters. She is dressed in white robe, and carries basket of flowers and lighted candle. After making the sign, of salutation, she takes position in front of Esther's chair, about half way between chair and Altar.

Spirit of Loyal Service:

Sisters and brothers, I was not recognized when I knocked at the door of your Chapter, but I am not a stranger here. I come to you in the spirit of Loyal Service. All through the years I have been present at your meetings, but I come again tonight to remind you that loyalty is always needed. It is almost 2000 years since the shepherds on the Judean hills saw the effulgent light of the Star in the East and followed it. This light still shines, and is leading us on. May the rays of it's points guide us to a life of usefulness, and may we emulate the virtues of the five beautiful characters which our Star represents, - the courageous Adah, the humble Ruth, the loyal Esther, the hopeful Martha, and the charitable Electa. (Places candle on Altar) As I place the candle of loyal service upon the Altar, may it be a challenge to you to renew your pledge of Loyalty to your Chapter, and to the Christ, as we follow His Star, - that beautiful Star in the East. (Bows and steps back to former position.)

Worthy Matron: (To Worthy Patron)

Worthy Patron, the Spirit of Loyal Service calls for volunteers. I therefore invite you to preside while I light my candle at the Altar. (Hands gavel to Worthy Patron, goes to Altar and lights candle.) I light my candle with the candle of Loyal Service. It's little light may seem but dim in this big world of ours, but it may help to brighten some little corner that without it, would be in darkness, (Slowly returns to East) and as I carry it to the East, may I renew my pledge to give to my Chapter my very best.

Associate Matron: (Goes to Altar with candle and lights it.)

I too will light my candle with the candle of Loyal Service, and whatever comes, may I have an earnest desire to do my best, exemplifying the principles of charity and loving kindness on which our order is founded. (Returns with lighted candle to station.)

Conductress and Associate Conductress advance to Altar with candles.

Conductress: (Lights candle)

As I conduct candidates through the ceremony of initiation, may my little candle be a guide to my pathway, that in all my duties, I may make the first impressions permanent, and as we desire they should be.

Associate Conductress: (Lights candle)

Many times I have knocked at the door of the preparation room, with those seeking admission to our Chapter. May my candle help me to emphasize the fact that this life is but a preparation room for the greater life which is to come. (Both return to their stations.)

Star points, with candles, rise and form semicircle at Altar.

Adah: (Lights candle)

May my little candle make known to all proper inquiries, the true meaning of the blue ray, teaching Adah's fidelity to all moral obligations.

Ruth: (Lights candle)

May my little candle throw out it's golden hue of constancy, and may we like Ruth, be faithful to our station, and obedient to the demands of honor and justice.

Esther: (Lights candle)

The light of my candle symbolizes light, purity, and joy. May we like Esther be loyal to kindred and friends, and willing to sacrifice for the welfare of others.

Martha: (Lights candle)

May my candle be an emblem of nature's life and beauty, symbolizing hope and immortality. Jesus said, "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die." May we always have the trustful faith of Martha in the hour of sorrow.

Electa: (Lights candle)

I will light my candle that it may be an emblem of charity and hospitality. May it give to us the love of Electa, that we may extend generous aid to the victims of poverty and distress.

Star points return to stations.

Secretary, Marshal, Chaplain, and Treasurer advance to Altar and light candles.

One of the group speaks:

We too, will bring our candles to receive light from the candle of Loyal Service, and it's light will teach us that truth never changes. May we in the discharge of our different duties, seek the truth, and having found it, may we keep it close in our hearts, and may fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith, and love be added to it.

These officers return to stations.

Spirit of Loyal Service:

May your candles guide you through the difficulties that may come to you, and may their light inspire you to give to your Chapter your Loyal Service, the best gift in your power to bestow, and as you follow day by day, our beautiful Star in the East, may you help to fulfill the mission for which our Order was established, - Service for Others.

Spirit of Loyal Service leaves lighted candle on the Altar and approaches the East. She addresses the Past Matrons and Past Patrons, who on this occasion should all be seated in the East.

Spirit of Loyal Service:

Past Matrons and Past Patrons, I have a word for you. Many times you have sounded the gavel in this Chapter, but your work is not yet done, for your years of usefulness will end only when called from this stage of action to another. You have understood the difficulties that may come to others, and your sympathetic words and your smile have been appreciated by those who have turned to you for counsel. Tonight, I bring from this Chapter, a message to you through these little flowers. They bloom again and again, lending their beauty to the world, and shedding their fragrance upon the air. So your presence gives grace and charm to the meetings of your Chapter, and through the beauty and fragrance of these flowers, this Chapter is pledging its loyalty to you. The flowers will soon fade, but may the message which they carry with them keep fresh in your memory for years to come, and may it keep you ever true to the sublime virtues exemplified by the heroines of our Order, who were fairest among thousands, altogether lovely.

Spirit of Loyal Service presents flowers to Past Matrons and Past Patrons and retires.

Lights should be lowered just before Spirit of Loyal Service is admitted to the Chapter room.

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